

# **CITY OF MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **MILWAUKEE POLICE ANNOUNCE CONTINUING CRIME DECLINE IN 2009**

Nearly 1,600 fewer people were victims of violent crime in Milwaukee the first three months of this year compared to the same period in 2008, according to data released today by Milwaukee Police Chief Edward A. Flynn.

The first quarter crime data clearly shows the continuing decline of major crime in Milwaukee. Highlights include a 20 percent reduction in robbery, a 23 percent reduction in aggravated assault, a 20 percent reduction in burglary, and a 30 percent reduction in auto theft.

“I wanted to announce these numbers in the heart of Milwaukee’s entertainment district,” Chief Flynn said. “I am sending the message to our community that Milwaukee is open for business. This is a safe place for everyone to come to enjoy all that this city has to offer and the Milwaukee Police Department is clearly having a positive effect. Our presence is being felt.”

“Public safety has always been my top priority, and these numbers show that we remain on the right track,” Mayor Tom Barrett said. “I’m pleased with the positive trend. I thank Chief Flynn, members of the police department and everyone in the community who has participated in crime reduction and prevention plans.”

Chief Flynn cited the combination of hard work, resource allocation, the Differential Police Response Unit, information sharing between detectives and patrol officers and special investigations set up by the district commanders for the continuing downward trend in violent crime.

The release of the first quarter data comes after Chief Flynn announced a 10 percent reduction in violent crime in Milwaukee in 2008, including a historic reduction in homicides of young African American males.

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